

1 VI. CLAIMS

2 WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

3 1. A method of financing eCommerce purchases comprising:

- 4 (a) Receiving over the Internet buyer registration information;
- 5 (b) Evaluating a credit rating for said buyer;
- 6 (c) Passing over the Internet said credit rating to a seller;
- 7 (d) Receiving over the Internet from said seller seller's credit options for said
- 8 buyer;
- 9 (e) Determining other credit provider's credit options for said buyer;
- 10 (f) Creating a database of said credit options for said buyer;
- 11 (g) Receiving over the Internet an order for said buyer;
- 12 (h) Querying said database with query criteria specific to said order, thereby
- 13 resulting in a report of credit options for said buyer for said order;
- 14 (i) Passing over the Internet said report to said buyer;
- 15 (j) Receiving over the Internet said buyer's selection of a credit option;
- 16 (k) Passing over the Internet a payment schedule for said buyer; and
- 17 (l) Receiving payment remitted from said buyer.

- 1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein said creating step (f) occurs on a pre-
2 determined schedule, in response to pre-determined triggering events, upon a
3 seller's or credit provider's request, and mixtures thereof.
- 4 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the time elapsed between said receiving step
5 (g) and said passing step (i) occurs in substantially real-time.
- 6 4. A method of financing eCommerce purchases comprising:
- 7 (a) Receiving over the Internet buyer registration information;
- 8 (b) Evaluating a credit rating for said buyer;
- 9 (c) Passing over the Internet said credit rating to a seller;
- 10 (d) Receiving over the Internet from said seller seller's credit options for said
11 buyer;
- 12 (e) Determining other credit provider's credit options for said buyer;
- 13 (f) Creating a database of said credit options for said buyer;
- 14 (g) Receiving over the Internet an order for said buyer;
- 15 (h) Querying said database with query criteria specific to said order, thereby
16 resulting in a report of credit options for said buyer for said order;
- 17 (i) Passing over the Internet said report to said buyer;
- 18 (j) Receiving over the Internet said buyer's selection of a credit option;
- 19 (k) Passing over the Internet a payment schedule for said buyer; and

- 1 (l) Receiving payment remitted from said buyer
- 2 (m) wherein the time elapsed between said receiving step (g) and said
- 3 passing step (i) is less than about five minutes.
- 4 5. The method of claim 4, wherein said creating step (f) occurs on a pre-
- 5 determined schedule, in response to pre-determined triggering events, upon a
- 6 seller's or credit provider's request, and mixtures thereof.
- 7 6. The method of claim 4, wherein the time elapsed between said receiving step
- 8 (g) and said passing step (i) occurs in substantially real-time.
- 9 7. A method of financing eCommerce purchases comprising:
- 10 (a) Evaluating a credit rating for said buyer;
- 11 (b) Passing said credit rating to a seller;
- 12 (c) Receiving from said seller seller's credit options for said buyer;
- 13 (d) Determining other credit provider's credit options for said buyer;
- 14 (e) Creating a database combining all of said credit options for said buyer;
- 15 (f) Retrieving from said database a report of credit options for said buyer;
- 16 (g) Passing said report to said buyer;
- 17 (h) Entering a credit agreement with said buyer for at least one of said credit
- 18 options;
- 19 (i) Passing funds borrowed pursuant to said credit agreement to said buyer
- 20 or the buyer's designated recipient; and

1 (j) Receiving funds from said buyer in repayment of said borrowed funds
2 pursuant to said credit agreement.

3 8. The method of claim 7, wherein said creating step (e) occurs on a pre-
4 determined schedule, in response to pre-determined triggering events, upon a
5 seller's or credit provider's request, and mixtures thereof.

6 9. The method of claim 7, wherein the time elapsed between said retrieving step
7 (f) and said passing step (g) occurs in substantially real-time.

8 10. The method of claim 7, wherein said passing, retrieving, and receiving steps
9 occur over a network comprising the Internet.

10 11. A method of financing eCommerce purchases comprising:

11 (a) Evaluating a credit rating for said buyer;

12 (b) Passing said credit rating to a seller;

13 (c) Receiving from said seller seller's credit options for said buyer;

14 (d) Determining other credit provider's credit options for said buyer;

15 (e) Creating a database combining all of said credit options for said buyer;

16 (f) Retrieving from said database a report of credit options for said buyer;

17 (g) Passing said report to said buyer;

18 (h) Entering a credit agreement with said buyer for at least one of said credit
19 options;

1 (i) Passing funds borrowed pursuant to said credit agreement to said buyer
2 or the buyer's designated recipient; and

3 (j) Receiving funds from said buyer in repayment of said borrowed funds
4 pursuant to said credit agreement.

5 (k) wherein the time elapsed between said retrieving step (f) and said
6 passing step (i) is less than about three minutes.

7 12. The method of claim 11, wherein said passing, retrieving, and receiving steps
8 occur over a network comprising the Internet.

9 13. The method of claim 11, wherein said creating step (e) occurs on a pre-
10 determined schedule, in response to pre-determined triggering events, upon a
11 seller's or credit provider's request, and mixtures thereof

12 14. A method of facilitating commercial transactions over a network, said method
13 comprising:

14 (a) Creating a database of credit options for a buyer;

15 (b) Receiving over a network an order for said buyer;

16 (c) Querying said database with query criteria specific to said buyer and to
17 said order, thereby resulting in a report of credit options for said buyer for
18 said order;

19 (d) Passing said report over said network to said buyer; and

20 (e) Receiving over said network said buyer's selection of a credit option.

21 15. The method of claim 14, wherein the time elapsed between said receiving step
22 (b) and said passing step (d) is not substantially greater than real-time.

- 1 16. The method of claim 14, wherein said creating step (a) occurs on a pre-
2 determined schedule, in response to pre-determined triggering events, upon a
3 seller's or credit provider's request, and mixtures thereof.
- 4 17. The method of claim 14, wherein said network comprises the Internet.
- 5 18. A method of facilitating commercial transactions over a network, said method
6 comprising:
- 7 (a) Creating a database of credit options for a buyer;
- 8 (b) Receiving over a network an order for said buyer;
- 9 (c) Querying said database with query criteria specific to said buyer and to
10 said order, thereby resulting in a report of credit options for said buyer for
11 said order;
- 12 (d) Passing said report over said network to said buyer;
- 13 (e) Receiving over said network said buyer's selection of a credit option; and
14 (f) wherein the time elapsed between said receiving step (b) and said
15 passing step (d) is not substantially greater than real-time.
- 16 19. The method of claim 18, wherein said creating step (a) occurs on a pre-
17 determined schedule, in response to pre-determined triggering events, upon a
18 seller's or credit provider's request, and mixtures thereof.
- 19 20. The method of claim 18, wherein said network comprises the Internet.
- 20 21. A method of facilitating commercial transactions over a network, said method
21 comprising:

- 1 (a) Creating a database of credit options for a buyer;
- 2 (b) Receiving over a network an order for said buyer;
- 3 (c) Querying said database with query criteria specific to said buyer and to
4 said order, thereby resulting in a report of credit options for said buyer for
5 said order;
- 6 (d) Passing said report over said network to said buyer, wherein the time
7 elapsed between said receiving step (b) and said passing step (d) is less
8 than about two minutes; and
- 9 (e) Receiving over said network said buyer's selection of a credit option.
- 10 22. The method of claim 21, wherein said time elapsed is substantially real-time.
- 11 23. The method of claim 21, wherein said creating step (a) occurs on a pre-
12 determined schedule, in response to pre-determined triggering events, upon a
13 seller's or credit provider's request, and mixtures thereof.
- 14 24. The method of claim 21, wherein said network comprises the Internet.
- 15 25. Computer-readable media tangibly embodying a database schema comprising:
- 16 (a) a buyer relation;
- 17 (b) a seller relation;
- 18 (c) an order relation;
- 19 (d) a credit provider relation;
- 20 (e) a credit terms relation; and

1 (f) a products relation; and

2 (g) wherein the attributes of said relations are selected such that such
3 relations form a relational database.

4 26. A memory for storing data for access by an application program being
5 executed on a data processing system, comprising

6 (a) a buyer relation;

7 (b) a seller relation;

8 (c) an order relation;

9 (d) a credit provider relation;

10 (e) a credit terms relation; and

11 (f) a products relation; and

12 (g) wherein the attributes of said relations are selected such that such
13 relations form a relational database.

14 27. Computer-readable media tangibly embodying a database schema comprising:

15 (a) a buyer relation comprising attributes sufficient to uniquely describe said
16 buyer and comprising at least one foreign key or having its key as a
17 foreign key in another relation sufficient to capture said buyer relation's
18 relationship with at least one other relation;

19 (b) a seller relation comprising attributes sufficient to uniquely describe said
20 buyer and comprising at least one foreign key or having its key as a

1 foreign key in another relation sufficient to capture said seller relation's
2 relationship with at least one other relation;

3 (c) a credit provider relation comprising attributes sufficient to uniquely
4 describe said buyer and comprising at least one foreign key or having its
5 key as a foreign key in another relation sufficient to capture said buyer
6 relation's relationship with at least one other relation;

7 (d) a credit terms relation comprising attributes sufficient to uniquely describe
8 said buyer and comprising at least one foreign key or having its key as a
9 foreign key in another relation sufficient to capture said credit terms
10 relation's relationship with at least one other relation; and

11 (e) wherein the attributes of said relations are selected such that such
12 relations form a relational database.

13 28. In an eCommerce vertical marketplace, a method of operating a database
14 management system for facilitating extension of credit, said method
15 comprising:

16 (a) Receiving information about a buyer sufficient to evaluate the relative risk
17 of extending credit to said buyer;

18 (b) Determining said relative risk;

19 (c) Determining a plurality of credit options for said buyer from a plurality of
20 credit providers based on said relative risk determined in step (b);

21 (d) Creating a database of said credit options for said buyer;

22 (e) Wherein said database is constructed and adapted for querying, thereby
23 resulting in a report of credit options for said buyer; and

